



世界自然基金會
香港分會

WWF-Hong Kong

香港新界葵涌葵昌路8號
萬泰中心15樓
15/F, Manhattan Centre
8 Kwai Cheong Road
Kwai Chung, N.T., Hong Kong

電話 Tel: +852 2526 1011
傳真 Fax: +852 2845 2764
wwf@wwf.org.hk
wwf.org.hk

Chairman and Members of Panel on Environmental Affairs, Legislative Council

(c/o Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs)
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong

13 November 2020
(By post and e-mail)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Panel on Environmental Affairs Meeting on 23 November 2020, agenda item
#IV “Items for discussion at the next meeting”**

The Hong Kong government needs to fulfil its obligation to protect the Chinese white dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) under the city’s Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Delta’s Chinese white dolphins, including those recorded in Hong Kong, are on the brink of local extinction. WWF-Hong Kong (WWF) urges the government to commit to the implementation of the [*Emergency Action Plan for the Pearl River Delta Population of the Chinese White Dolphin*](#). This process must start with the designation of a development-free Dolphin Conservation Management Area in western and southern Lantau waters by 2024 to form part of an MPA network and secure the future of vulnerable marine hotspots.

Hong Kong provides a critical part of the home range for the broader Pearl River Delta dolphin population, but local dolphin abundance has dropped by over 70 per cent in the past 16 years, threatened by habitat loss and degradation, as well as dwindling fisheries, marine traffic and other human threats.

The Chinese white dolphin was once common in waters off north and northeast Lantau, but ongoing and proposed construction and reclamation works, including the third airport runway project, Tung Chung New Town Extension, and Siu Ho Wan Reclamation, have caused the dolphins to rarely use this area. Since 2015, some individuals shifted their home range to south and west Lantau waters, which provides a long and continuous natural coastline with abundant prey. This makes it

together possible™

贊助人：香港特別行政區行政長官
林鄭月娥女士，大紫荊勳章，GBS
主席：何國達先生
行政總裁：江偉智先生

義務核數師：香港立信德業會計師事務所有限公司
義務公司秘書：嘉信秘書服務有限公司
義務司庫：匯豐銀行
註冊慈善機構

Patron: The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS
The Chief Executive of the HKSAR
Chairman: Mr Edward M. Ho
CEO: Mr Peter Cornthwaite

Honorary Auditors: BDO Limited
Honorary Company Secretary:
McCabe Secretarial Services Limited
Honorary Treasurer: HSBC
Registered Charity
(Incorporated With Limited Liability)

the most critical Chinese white dolphin area in Hong Kong waters as identified in the Emergency Action Plan recently released by WWF-Hong Kong and partners.

The Southwest Lantau Marine Park, which took effect in April 2020, does not comprehensively protect the core dolphin habitat. We urge the government to set up a Chinese white dolphin conservation management zone, to connect and expand existing marine parks, establishing a science-based network of key habitats to stabilise and help dolphin communities recover. *The Emergency Action Plan* lays out a pragmatic framework to kick-start this urgent process in which the Hong Kong government can take the lead in activating timely and appropriate actions.

WWF urges the Hong Kong government to establish this development-free Dolphin Conservation Management Area covering feeding and socializing habitats in southern and western Lantau waters by 2024 as part of an increased Marine Protected Area network to cover 30% of Hong Kong waters by 2030 with no-take areas as a foundation. Only 5 per cent of Hong Kong's waters designated or planned to be established at MPAs by 2023 is not enough.

WWF is looking forward to action by members of the panel and the government on fulfilling Hong Kong's obligation under the CBD as well as its own commitments for dolphins under the BSAP, which is to review and update its Chinese white dolphin species action plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,



David Olson
Director of Conservation
WWF-Hong Kong



Laurence McCook
Head of Oceans Conservation
WWF-Hong Kong

Encl.

Cc: Mr KS Wong, Secretary for the Environment
Ms Michelle Au, Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment